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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (10/09): Palestinians react to continued Israeli restrictions at Al Aqsa Mosque

Main Stories:

The dailies lead with reports on the strict Israeli security measures throughout the old city of Jerusalem for Friday prayers, as Palestinians were urged to mobilize in defense of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Islamic movements in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel have called on the Palestinians to consider today a "Day of Anger" and defend the mosque. In related news, the dailies report on Palestinian Authority (PA) Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Malki reporting to the press from New York that he asked UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to exert pressure on Israel to stop escalating the situation in the region.

The local press reports on US Special Envoy George Mitchell's talks with Israeli officials yesterday in Jerusalem. The reports note that Mitchell met with Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Israeli President Shimon Peres. Mitchell told Peres that the US will continue their efforts to ensure the resumption of negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, according to coverage. He also reiterated that President Obama and Secretary Clinton are determined to reach a comprehensive peace in the region. A US official noted that the recent incidents at Al-Aqsa Mosque and the implications of the Goldstone report prove once again the need for the two parties to resume negotiations and end the conflict.

Al-Quds reports news citing AFP that Fatah is accusing the US of walking away from international agreements. Vice Secretary General of the Fatah Central Committee Jibril Al-Roujoub is quoted as saying "it is becoming obvious now that Obama's administration is deviating from the international agreements concerning the negotiations" and noted that there will be no resumption of negotiations unless Israel completely halts settlement activities and abides by their road map obligations. Al-Roujoub also said that "Palestine is not a US

territory," according to coverage.

The dailies report that Egypt has not received a request from Hamas to delay the national reconciliation agreement signing scheduled for October 25. The reports note that Egypt has urged all Palestinian factions to prioritize national interests and not get mired in the implications of postponing the vote on the Goldstone report.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Yousef Al-Qarei opined in Al-Quds independent daily under the title "Holy places in Jerusalem in danger" (10/09): "Given the European position on settlements over the past couple of years, we should push our mutual understanding with the EU at this critical time. In July 2008, the EU criticized the continuation of settlement activities following Israel's initial approval to build housing units on Abu Ghneim mountain in Jerusalem ... It is important that the EU Foreign and Security Policy Coordinator [Javier Solana] continues this work."

2) Mohammad Yaghi opines in Al Ayyam independent daily under the headline "Defending the sin" (10/09): "Postponing the vote on the Goldstone report until next March will not pass without severe repercussions on Fatah, the PLO, and national reconciliation. The postponement created an earthquake among Palestinians and the Arab states that the decision makers in the PA did not expect. It will result in wide divisions for the PA. In reality, it's not possible to rescue the PA from itself if it can't realize its sin and stop constantly crossing red lines."

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